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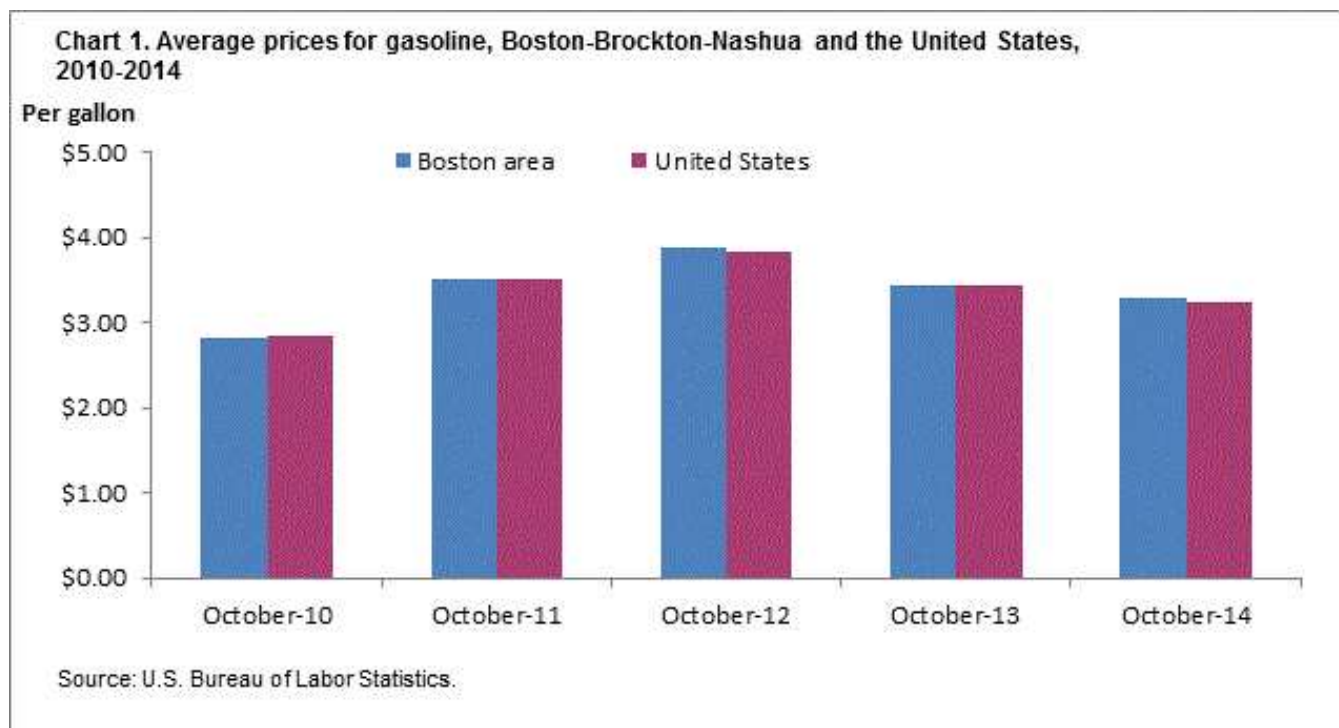
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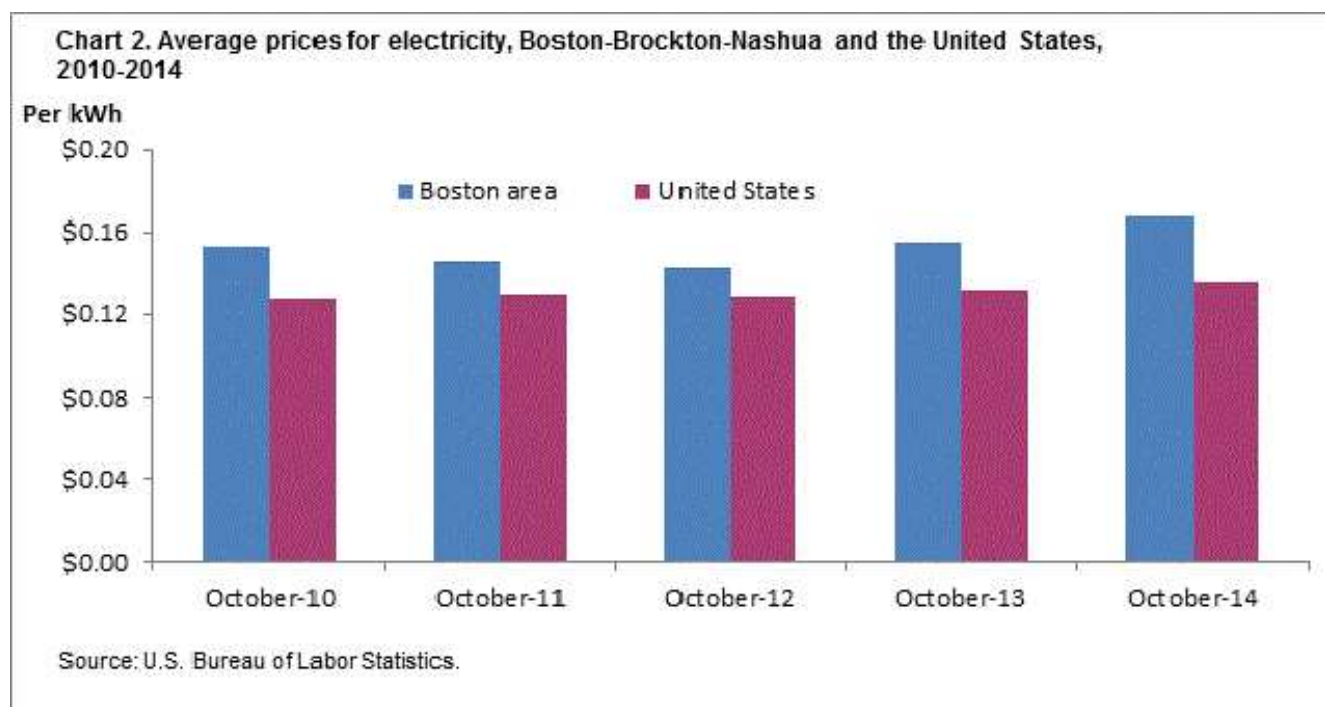
## Average Energy Prices In Boston-Brockton-Nashua – October 2014

Boston area households paid an average of \$3.285 a gallon for gasoline in October 2014, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Deborah A. Brown noted that this was 14 cents below the October 2013 price of \$3.425 per gallon. Also down over the year were utility (piped) gas prices which averaged \$0.994 per therm in the Boston-Brockton-Nashua area in October 2014. Area natural gas prices averaged \$1.081 per therm last October. The average cost of electricity at 16.7 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) in October was up from 15.5 cents per kWh spent last year. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

At \$3.285 the price of a gallon of gasoline in the Boston area was similar to the national average of \$3.241 in October 2014. The local price of gasoline has been close to the national average in the month of October in each of the last five years. (See chart 1.)

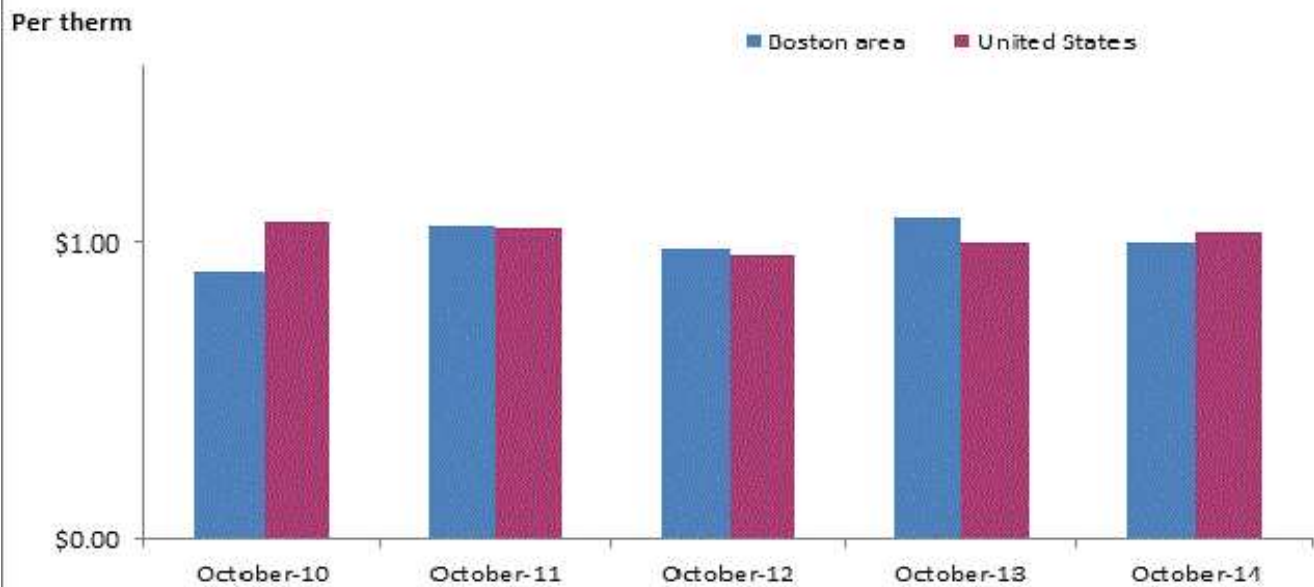


The 16.7 cents per kWh Boston households paid for electricity in October 2014 was 22.8 percent more than the nationwide average of 13.6 cents per kWh. Last October, electricity costs were 17.4 percent higher in Boston compared to the nation. In each of the last five years, the price of electricity in Boston has always exceeded that for the nation in the month of October, by twelve percent or more. (See [chart 2.](#))



Prices paid by Boston area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, were \$0.994 per therm, similar to the national average in October 2014 (\$1.033 per therm). In October of 2013 local prices were 8.2 percent greater than those of the nation. (See [chart 3.](#))

**Chart 3. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, Boston-Brockton-Nashua and the United States, 2010-2014**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Boston-Brockton-Nashua, Mass.-N.H.-Maine-Conn. consolidated area consists of Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth and Suffolk Counties and parts of Bristol, Hampden, and Worcester Counties in Massachusetts; parts of Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham, and Strafford Counties in New Hampshire; part of York County in Maine; and part of Windham County in Connecticut.

#### **Technical Note**

Average prices are estimated from Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for selected commodity series to support the research and analytic needs of CPI data users. Average prices for electricity, utility (piped) gas, and gasoline are published monthly for the U.S. city average, the 4 regions, the 3 population size classes, 10 region/size-class cross-classifications, and the 14 largest local index areas. For electricity, average prices per kilowatt-hour (kWh) are published. For utility (piped) gas, average prices per therm are published. For gasoline, the average price per gallon is published. Average prices for commonly available grades of gasoline are published as well as the average price across all grades.

All eligible prices are converted to a price per normalized quantity. These prices are then used to estimate a price for a defined fixed quantity. The average price per kilowatt-hour represents the total bill divided by the kilowatt-hour usage. The total bill is the sum of all items applicable to all consumers appearing on an electricity bill including, but not limited to, variable rates per kWh, fixed costs, taxes, surcharges, and credits. This calculation also applies to the average price per therm for utility (piped) gas.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339.

**Table 1. Average prices for gasoline, electricity, and utility (piped) gas, Boston-Brockton-Nashua and the United States, October 2013 - October 2014, not seasonally adjusted**

Year and Month	Gasoline, all types, per gallon		Electricity per kilowatt hour		Utility (piped) gas per therm	
	Boston area	United States	Boston area	United States	Boston area	United States
<b>2013</b>						
October .....	3.425	3.434	0.155	0.132	1.081	0.999
November .....	3.362	3.310	0.167	0.130	1.318	0.999
December .....	3.469	3.333	0.167	0.131	1.319	0.998
<b>2014</b>						
January .....	3.465	3.378	0.173	0.134	1.319	1.040
February .....	3.445	3.422	0.173	0.134	1.357	1.078
March .....	3.567	3.590	0.173	0.135	1.532	1.154
April .....	3.597	3.717	0.175	0.131	1.532	1.137
May .....	3.701	3.745	0.167	0.136	1.108	1.111
June .....	3.699	3.750	0.169	0.143	1.108	1.088
July .....	3.699	3.690	0.169	0.143	1.107	1.093
August .....	3.547	3.540	0.169	0.143	1.084	1.060
September .....	3.476	3.463	0.169	0.141	1.024	1.058
October .....	3.285	3.241	0.167	0.136	0.994	1.033